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(b) whether it is a fact that they formed an assembly of only two and that there were none others on the public road except the police and the police van in the vicinity; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the two injured picketers were admitted into the Wenlock Hospital for treatment; if so, whether the hon. the Home Member will be pleased to place a copy of the Accident Register or a statement from the Medical Officer who treated them showing the number and nature of the wounds received by them and the date and time when they were admitted into the hospital?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The Government have no reason to suppose that the two picketers were alone at the time.

(c) It is reported that one of the picketers, Mr. Keshava was an in-patient in the hospital for five days. The Government have no information as to the date and time at which he was admitted into the hospital. It is reported that he received seventeen injuries.

Alleged beating of picketers at Mangalore on 4th May 1932.

*251 Q.—Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether there was intensive picketing of foreign cloth shops in Mangalore on the 4th May 1932;

(b) whether it is a fact that the batches of two picketers that picketed Messrs. D. Kanji Brothers' shop on 4th May 1932 were mercilessly pushed to the ground, beaten and dragged on the road like carcasses of dogs;

(c) whether it is a fact that on the evening of the 4th May the innocent persons passing by on the road near the market wearing Gandhi caps were mercilessly beaten by the police; and

(d) what action have the Government taken or propose to take in the matter?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) to (d) From a report received from the District Magistrate it appears prima facie that force in excess of the requirements of the situation was used by the Police on 4th May 1932. The question of what further action should be taken is under consideration of the Government who have called for further information.

Alleged police excess on Lakshminarayana Bellala, a Congress picketer of Perdur, Udipi taluk.

*252 Q.—Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a single Congress volunteer Lakshminarayana Bellala picketed a toddy or liquor shop in Perdur in Udipi taluk, South Kanara, about the middle of April 1932 and was very severely beaten by the police;

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(b) whether it is a fact that he was given about 200 beatings with lathies and canes by about five policemen and kicked by the Sub-Inspector;

(c) whether it is a fact that the police after so severely beating him left him on the road side about 11 miles away unconscious without giving him any medical assistance;

(d) whether it is a fact that he was later admitted as an in-patient in the Udipi Government hospital; if so, will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to place a copy of the accident register noting the injuries on his person, or, if that is not possible, at least a copy of the statement of the medical officer who attended on him showing the number and nature of the wounds on his body; and

(e) what action the Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) *to* (c) From the report of the District Magistrate, it appears prima facie that force was used in excess of the requirements of the situation. The Government have called for further information with a view to the taking of such disciplinary action as may be necessary.

Press Communiqué, dated 18th April 1932 regarding the malingering of Congress volunteers beaten with light canes.

* 253 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state with reference to the Press Communiqué, dated 18th April 1932—

(a) whether the Government have taken expert medical opinion before coming to the conclusion and stated therein that picketers feign unconsciousness as it is most improbable that they should be rendered unconscious by being beaten with light canes;

(b) what the cases are that the Government say they have investigated and what the nature of the investigation is in each which, according to the Government, has proved that reports of excessive beatings are exaggerations;

(c) whether the Government have investigated into the cases of reported excessive beating of picketers in Mangalore on the 10th and 11th April 1932; if so, what the nature of the enquiry is and who were the persons examined; and

(d) will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to call for a statement of the District Medical Officer, Mangalore, who treated the beaten picketers Messrs. Keshava, M. M. Rama Rao and Jayarama Shetty, stating (i) the number and nature of the beating; (ii) whether any of the picketers could have become unconscious by the beating; (iii) whether any of them were actually unconscious and were having fever; and (iv) whether there were any fractures to any of the injured by the beating administered by the alleged light canes?